

REMARKS

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-37 under the obviousness provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,169,497 to Robert in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,379 to Smith. The rejection as applied to the claims is respectfully traversed.

Robert discloses a system in which two or more mobile transmit and receive stations, each having a position determining system, use triangulation to track and determine the location of an object (element 16). The object has no capability to determine its own position.

Applicant's claimed invention differs in that the object has the capability to determine its own position using a position determining system located on the object. The object then transmits its position to a machine, which also has the capability to determine its own position using a position determining system located on the machine. The machine can then display the position of the object relative to the machine to an operator of the machine.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Robert does not disclose "transmitting the determined position of the object from the object to the device". The object does transmit a signal, but only for the mobile transmit and receive stations to use for triangulation to determine the location of the object.

Smith discloses a system in which movable entities, having location determination modules, monitor their locations with respect to buffer zones which are determined based on restricted activity areas (based both on location and time). Any communications is performed with a central station, which then determines how to coordinate the information received among the various entities and locations (col. 4, lines 46-67). Smith does not disclose a system in which a machine at a site determines its position, an object at the site determines its position and transmits its position to the machine, and the position of the object relative to the machine is displayed to an operator of the machine, as claimed by Applicant.

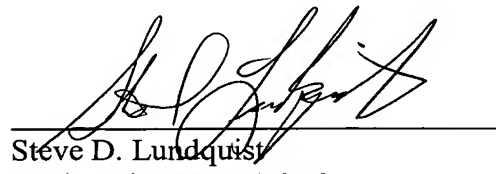
Applicant respectfully urges that neither Robert nor Smith, separately or in combination, teach, disclose or even suggest the elements of Applicant's claimed invention as embodied by independent claims 1, 14, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34 and 36. Applicant maintains therefore that these independent claims are patentably distinct from Robert and Smith, either alone or in combination. Thus, Applicant's dependent claims, which depend upon these independent claims, are also patentably distinct.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims patentably distinguish Applicant's invention over the references cited by the Examiner, and are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections, and that they be withdrawn. The Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned representative if it is believed that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve D. Lundquist', is written over a horizontal line.

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